

Appl. No. 09/900,087
Amdt. Dated 09/22/2005
Reply to Office action of 07/12/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2005. The Examiner is thanked for his thorough examination of the subject application. In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 14-21 and 24-34 have been allowed. No amendments have been made to these claims. Claims 8-13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

For this Amendment, while Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(c) and 103(a) as applied to claims 8-13, further discussion as to the grounds for traversing these rejections is moot based on the cancellation of claims 8-13.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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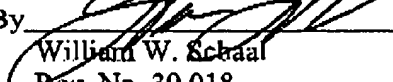
Conclusion

In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-7, 14-21 and 24-34 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 09/22/05

By 
William W. Schaal
Reg. No. 39,018
Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

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